

Natick is celebrating [Earth Day](#) on the Common this Sunday. We hope to see you there!

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## Carpe Diem!

I don't know about you, but when I see a forsythia in bloom, I get all giddy inside. Even on a cold, dreary day, its shock of yellow screams out, "Hope!" and "You can do it!", and I get the jolt I need to push on.

I get the same feeling when I look at some of the data we've been collecting on [solar in Natick](#), hear residents advocate against the current [Eversource rate case](#), and follow Massachusetts progress toward its [greenhouse gas reduction goals](#). These are encouraging and empowering signs that sustainability can succeed on a local level, and that we all have a role to play in creating the future we want to see.

[Natick's Earth Day Festival](#) is another great place to be inspired, and I hope to see you there this Sunday (4/23). I'll be sitting at the newly-formed [Natick Sustainability Committee](#)'s table, and will have sign up forms for [rain barrels](#), compostable bags for sale and details on all the other great stuff in this newsletter. Come say hi!

## Action Updates



### Volunteers Needed!

Natick is working with Wayland, Lincoln, and Sudbury to put together an "Energize!" campaign focused on helping homeowners complete home energy audits, explore electric vehicle options, conserve water and consider their solar potential. If you're interested in helping, please email Richard Moon at [richard.moon.ra@gmail.com](mailto:richard.moon.ra@gmail.com).

### Do you want a rain barrel?

[The Great American Rain Barrel Company](#) is offering rain barrels to Natick residents at a discount. We will have sign up forms at Earth Day and will send additional info via email in the coming weeks on how to [order online](#). The barrels will cost \$69 each, must be ordered in advance and will be distributed at the Farmer's Market on June 10. Unfortunately, we won't be able to deliver them to you.

The barrels themselves are re-purposed olive shipping containers that are BPA-free, chlorine-free and UV protected. They also have a mosquito net to prevent infestation. They can hold up to 60 gallons of water! (Yay!)

### Eversource Rate Case

Eversource recently filed an electric rate case



**returns, decouple revenue, invest in grid modernization, and change rate design.**

The Attorney General and environmental justice groups have come out in opposition to several components. Natick solar customers spoke at a public hearing and many have [signed a petition](#) asking the DPU to reject the proposal. Read more about the rate case in [this overview testimony](#) and [this summary](#) compiled by the Acadia Center.

## For the Win!



### Solar Parking Canopies

We continue to make progress on plans to install solar canopies over parking lots at Natick High School, Memorial Football Field and the Community Senior Center. Natick's Planning Board provided feedback on the projects this winter, which ultimately improved the Town's design. The Board then approved the project plans, which we hope to construct in summer 2018, pending state incentives and several other factors.



**EXCEPTIONAL  
PERFORMANCE:  
SUSTAINABILITY**

### American Public Works Award

We all know that Natick's DPW is pretty awesome. Turns out, they are gosh darn sustainable too. From using a soy-based pre-icing treatment, to installing EV charging stations, to designing green infrastructure and more, they do a lot to take care of our community long-term. Congrats to the DPW for receiving the American Public Works Association's Exceptional Performance for Sustainability!



The Natick Board of Selectmen approved a contract to begin the curbside collection of clothing and small household goods, like toys and kitchenware. Residents will receive pink bags in the mail for these items, which [Simple Recycling](#), a private contractor, will begin picking up on your recycling day at the end of June. More details coming soon!



#### **Pursuing National Solar Designation**

Last week, Natick submitted its application for [SolSmart Bronze](#), a national designation that recognizes communities that have taken key steps to address local barriers to solar energy and foster the growth of mature local solar markets. We should find out if we receive it in May!



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